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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the factors which govern the use of infinitives and gerunds after verbs and uses American literature and periodicals since 1945 for examples of this usage. The analysis was undertaken in order to clarify this usage for those teaching or learning English as a second language. Studies yielded three general rules for the use of either the "verb plus infinitive" or the "verb plus gerund" construction. These are: (1) generally, the infinitive structure is used; (2) sometimes one construction is preferred over the other because of rhythm, euphony, or style; (3) the use of the gerund construction may indicate progression. (AM)

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CHOICE BETWEEN INFINITIVES AND GERUNDS AFTER VERBS--THE EVIDENTIAL STUDIES

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This paper will inquire into the factors which govern the use of infinitives and gerunds after verbs which can take both constructions, collecting examples from American literature and periodicals since 1945.

Perhaps to native speakers of English, the differences of function and word feeling between the "verb + infinitive" construction and the "verb + gerund" construction may not be a matter of grammar but only one of idiom, but to non-native speakers this is one of the most difficult points both in teaching and learning English, and textbooks of grammar written by native speakers are in fact silent on this question.

As a result of my evidential studies, the governing factors seem to be as follows:

(a) In present-day English, after verbs, infinitives are used more freely and abundantly than gerunds.

(b) Owing to the style, euphony and rhythm of the sentence, one construction may sometimes be preferred regardless of the rule.

(c) Difference between the infinitive and the gerund may be an aspectual one, that is, the gerund may imply progressive aspect, especially after verbs of beginning, starting and continuing.

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1. In the construction where verbs can take both infinitives and gerunds, sentences (1) below show clearly the difference of meaning, as "past happening" and "future act", and perhaps leave no doubt concerning the meaning. Sentences (2), however, may raise several different opinions as to the differences of meaning,

function and word feeling.

(1) { I remember seeing him.
    { You must remember to call on him.

(2) { He began talking.
    { He began to talk.

Are both infinitives and gerunds freely interchangeable without any difference of meaning or is the choice between infinitives and gerunds just a matter of style? On this point Quirk(1973, Sec. 12. 19) and Kruisinga(1931, Sec. 376) admit the difference of meaning between the two, and the former points out the "aspectual difference". Thomson-Martinet(1969, Sec. 258a) do not admit the difference. What is noteworthy is Vallins' comment (1966, 80) that "the use of one or the other would depend upon certain indefinable factors of time and emphasis in the mind of the speaker or writer". Close(1962, Sec. 279) also says that "the student can tell only from experience when he is free to use both forms", which offers no practical rule for foreign students. Wood's view(1956, 12) is very interesting in that "in many sentences where theoretically either form should be possible, in practice only one of them is acceptable".[1]

2. The number of examples collected in this study from American literature(42 novels, 13 plays) and periodicals since 1945 is 1773(1281:infinitives, 492:gerunds). The verbs which precede infinitives and gerunds are chiefly limited to those of beginning, starting, continuing, liking, loving and hating. The list of data is as follows:

	Infinitives	Gerunds
begin	256	128
start	73	98
continue	68	20
(cease)	5	5
like	75	13
love	8	4
hate	15	4

(dislike)[2]	1	1
(prefer)	13	2
(attempt)	13	12
(intend)	29	1
(refuse)	55	0
(try)	123	6

It may be observed that after verbs infinitives are more frequently used than gerunds. According to Joos' analysis(1968, 41) of The Trial of Dr. Adams, the frequency of the use of infinitives is ten times as many as gerunds, which is very different from the case in which both is used competitively as the subject of a sentence. Furthermore he points out that the ratio of "like + an infinitive" and " like + a gerund" is 16 to 1, and that most of the examples of the former have the modal auxiliaries, "would", "should". My examples tell a similar trend to Joos' comment. The number of the cases of "would like to -" is 29.

Although Poutsma(1929, Ch. XIX, Sec. 20) says that "as a general rule it may be said that the gerund-construction is chiefly met with in the written, the infinitive-construction in the spoken language", even in the written language the infinitive-construction is more frequently used than the gerund-construction as may be understood from the above table.

3. One of the factors which govern the use of infinitives and gerunds after verbs may be the style, euphony or rhythm of the sentence. An irritating expression may also be avoided.

(3) She seemed to like {distressing / to distress} us both by parting us.

(4) It is natural for me to wish putting my children forward in the world.

(5) So far from aiming to be mistress of Europe, she was rapidly sinking into the almost helpless prey of France.

The successive use of infinitive in the example (3) may be avoided, and instead the gerund "distressing" may be preferred and sometimes regardless of the rule as in (4) {Jespersen(1940, Sec. 13, 32)}. Double -ing, "aiming at being", may also be

avoided in (5) [Fowler(1931, 141)]. Example (6a) which has three infinitives may be revised as (6b) to show distinctly that "to abandon' is the object of "decided" [Close(1962, Sec. 299)].[3]

(6a) They decided to make another attempt to cross the river, and to abandon their equipment.

(6b) They decided to make another attempt at crossing the river, and to abandon their equipment.

As stated above, there are some instances in which either a infinitive construction or a gerund construction is selected on account of rhythm, euphony, and style.

(7) Smiling the same smile back and forth they began laughing: "Joseph!" And were walking murkily up and down the brown belly of the river in mock distress. (J. F. Powers, Lions, Harts, Leaping Does, p. 26)

(8) Old Spencer started nodding again. He also started picking his nose. (J. D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye, p. 13)

(9) And I like doing what I'm doing right now. (J. D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye, p. 173)

(10) And you thought I was dying and you started taking over, well, you can stop taking over now, Ida, because I'm not gonna die, ... (T. Williams, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, p. 145)

In example (7), the participle "smiling" and the adverbial parase of continuation, "back and forth", are in fine harmony with the gerund "laughing". In this context infinitive may not be preferred, as it does not match this context. The gerund-construction, "starting picking", in (8) is attracted by the preceding gerund, "started nodding". Sometimes gerund shows the durative aspect which is characteristic of the present participle, especially when used along with progressive forms in the same sentences as in (9) (10). In the following examples, (11) (12), contrast between ingressive aspect by "start -ing" and terminative aspect by "stop -ing" may be clearly observed.

(11) Will you stop talking and start spinning? (I. Horovitz, The Indian wants the Bronx, p. 21)

(12) Let's stop shuffling the fuggers and start playing. (N. Mailer, The Naked and the Dead, p. 10)

The number of the examples of successive use of -ing is only three, one being "starting -ing" in (13), the others being "considering getting", "stopping drinking" in (14) (15), which are bounded to take only a gerund.

(13) After he left, I put on my pyjamas and bathrobe and my old hunting hat, and started writing the composition. (J. D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye, p. 41)

(14) I was seriously considering getting professional help for him. (Chicago Tribune, April 23, 1974, p. 22)

(15) I had consulted him twice before for help in stopping drinking. (Reader's Digest, Feb., 1974, p. 67)

However, the successive use of infinitives are sometimes found as the following.

(16) . . . 'How beautiful your profile is,' which so nonplussed me and (like the test) made me unselfconfident, attentive, attempting to 'begin to make her,' to act in that way. . . . (J. Kerouac, The Subterraneans, p. 19)

4.0. Quirk(1973, Sec. 12. 19) says about "verb + infinitive" and "verb + gerund" that where both constructions are admitted, there is usually felt to be an aspectual difference that influences the choice, and that the participle construction generally implies 'fulfilment' and the infinitive construction 'potentiality', and show the following sentences.

(17) He started { speaking and kept on for more than an hour. / to speak but stopped because she objected.

Quirk's 'fulfilment' and 'potentiality' may be another expression of the progressive aspect which is particularly observed between the simple forms and the progressive forms:

(18) { He wrote a letter. / He was writing a letter.

Indeed there are some cases in which the contrast of

momentaneous aspect and progressive aspect is clearly observed as in the following example:

(19) He began pressing the beer can between his hands, I watched the metal begin to give. (J. Baldwin, Sonny's Blues, p. 313)

In this sentence, the gerund implies the continuity of action, and the infinitive momentaneous action, and the contrast of aspect is quite obvious.

If the gerund shows the progressive aspect, it may be said that verbs used as gerunds has the same quality with those used as progressive forms, and that the contexts in which gerunds are used have the same character with that of progressive forms.

4.1. After the main verbs which can take both constructions, there is a tendency not to use as gerunds the verbs avoided in the progressive forms, except the case in which the main verbs idiomatically take only the gerund like verbs of stopping and finishing.[4]

Though gerunds after "stop" are used without any constraint as "stop being a reporter", "stop liking" as in the following examples, these verbs usually are not used as progressive forms, except in a special case of intensive use.

(20) As an old friend once noted, "Dave never stopped being a reporter. (Reader's Digest, Feb., 1974, p. 46)

(21) Nobody he didn't know liked him; and he stopped liking those he did know. (P. Roth, Goodbye, Columbus, p. 445)

The instances of verbs, usually avoided in the progressive form, and used as gerunds, can be seen only after the main verbs which select only one construction such as "remember feeling", "imagine seeing". In the case of other verbs avoided in the progressive form and precede the main verbs that can take both constructions, the number of instances of verbs used as gerunds is only two from among the 492 examples:[5]

(22) . . . , and though he knew that Vivaldo had finally began seeing her again, they never spoke of Jane.

(J. Baldwin, Another Country, p. 36)

(23) This late in my life believe me I am not going to start hating my own flesh and blood. (P. Roth, Goodbye, Columbus, p. 127)

While in cases of the infinitive, verbs usually avoided in a progressive form are found abundantly:

(24) I think I am beginning to believe them. (Chicago Tribune, April 17, 1974, p. 9)

(25) And after a while it began to look like Ned was right. (W. Faulkner, The Reivers, p. 56)

(26) He was only beginning to recognize, somewhere, a quite enormous betrayal. (T. Pynchon, Under the Rose, p. 421)

(27) He was beginning to smell himself and he felt a little sick. (N. Mailer, The Naked and the Dead, p. 33)

(28) It was beginning to taste strange, spoiling in the sun. (S. A. Grau, The Keepers of the House, p. 70)

(29) He looked as if he were just beginning to understand that she might be trying to insult him. (F. O'Connor, Good Country People, p. 235)

(30) . . . , my 70-year-old mailman would never have started to look like Robert Redford. (Journal Star, April 23, 1974, p. A-11)

(31) . . . I don't like to seem like I'm prying but. . . . (J. Webb, The Graduate, p. 82)

In the above examples, verbs such as "believe", "look like", "recognize", "smell", "taste", "understand", "seem" are never used as gerunds in the "verb + gerund" construction. Other verbs that are found in similar use are "feel", "have(to possess)", "hear", "know", "receive", "satisfy", etc.

Jespersen(1940, Sec. 13. 21), Wood(1956, 14), Close(1962, Sec. 294), and Hornby(1954, Sec. 28b) state that the verbs which imply continuity or attainment and are not used as progressive forms, such as "understand", "realize", "look(to seem)", and "see(to comprehend)" are used only as infinitives after "begin". Thomson-Martinet(1969, Sec. 258) say that not only after "begin"

but also after "start" these verbs are used only as infinitives. As a result of my investigation concerning this point, the above rule is observed even after the other verbs as "continue", "like", "love", "hate", except "stop" and "finish". Consequently instances of "start looking like", "continue feeling", "like knowing" are hardly found. And the same can be said about the verbs used as gerunds after many other main verbs. In fact my data tell that most of the verbs used as gerunds are verbs of physical activity like "come", "leave", "run", "say", "walk", and the verbs of mental sensation and state are few as shown in (22), (23), (32):

(32) The Japanese began getting sensitive to their vulnerability to shortages of imported raw materials and food about a year ago, . . . (New York Times, January 31, 1974, p. 49)

In contrast with this, the verbs used as infinitives imply not only motion or act but also sensation or mental activities and state such as "assume", "admit", "confront", "forsake", "include", "identify", "resolve", "revive", "resume", "suffer", "volunteer", etc.[6]

4.2. Gerunds are often used with adverbials of duration and frequency after the verbs that imply ingressive and durative aspect such as "begin", "start", "continue". They are also preferred in contexts of duration or process of action or movement. These concurrences of gerunds with particular adverbials and contexts are proper to progressive forms:[7]

(33) Mr Braddock continued frowning at his son a few more moments, glanced at his watch, then looked back at Benjamin. (C. Webb, The Graduate, p. 5)

(34) Mrs Arnold, seated in the middle of the sofa, began waving one of her hand back and forth through the air and. . . . (C. Webb, The Graduate, p. 30)

(35) That night, the anti-serum began flowing, drop by drop, into Jordi Casals' veins. (Reader's Digest, April, 1974, p. 157)

(36) Then he started walking up and down the room, taking these very small steps, the way a woman does, ... (J. D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye, p. 65)

(37) I started playing golf when I was only ten years old. (J. D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye, p. 42)

(38) After takeoff from Karachi the next day, we began calling Bombay control every five minutes. (Reader's Digest, Feb., 1974, p. 54)

(39) ;Ludus was going to start getting paid again every Saturday night, maybe he had even stopped borrowing mules. (W. Faulkner, The Reivers, p. 42)

The gerund constructions (33)-(36), used with the adverbials of duration, may express an emphsized durative aspect. The adverbial clause of time in (37) will make the reader feel a long continuation from the past. The adverbials of frequency with the gerunds in (38), (39) mean that certain actions are incessantly continuing. Infinitives are never preferred in the contexts of (33)-(39). Likewise, in the following sentence, exactly only the gerund is preferred as the context itself evidently shows continuation.

(40) His fingers continued pointing out stops on our flight path: Crete...Jordan...Saudi Arabia...Pakistan... India...Singapore...the Philippines...Hong Kong. (Reader's Digest, Feb., 1974, p.52)

Whereas, as infinitive construction merely states the action, movement or state, like a simple verb itself, it is hardly used with adverbials of duration or frequency, to the exclusion of the case of "continue + infinitive".

(41) If Durocher had continued to come here each year your father would think him the greatest manager. (E. Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea, p. 17)

(42) Sweek continues to ride back and forth on the wagon. (K. H. Brown, Blake's Design, p. 265)

The infinitive construction is much more appropriate in the sentence below whose context shows momentaneous or ingressive

aspect, especially with the adverbial phrase "the minute". In this sentence the gerund construction will never be used, for it does not express any "duration".

(43) It was about the worst thing I could've done, because the minute I started to laugh I thought I was going to vomit. (J. D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye, p. 203)

4.3. Though Long(1961, 94) and Thomson-Martinet(1969, Sec. 258a) assert that "begin + infinitive" and "begin + gerund" are used without any difference, this may not be a satisfactory statement as will be understood from the examples below. Zandvoort (1972, Sec. 69) says that "begin + gerund" shows "deliberate act", and Christophersen-Sandved(1969, Sec. 346) say "begin + gerund" does "intentional action" and "begin + infinitive" "unintentional action":

(44) On his return to England he began studying law.
--Zandvoort

(45a) As soon as he came down from the university he began writing novels.

(45b) Suddenly it began to rain. --Christophersen-Sandved

But in the cases of (44) and (45), it may be the context itself, not the gerunds, that implies "deliberate and intentional" meaning. The implication of "unintentional action" of the infinitive in (45b) may also be derived from the context itself, not from the infinitive. Because it may not seem that gerund in (46) shows "deliberate" action, and infinitive in (47) "unintentional" action.

(46) Suddenly, she jumped up, threw over the table and began pulling the woman's hair. (Reader's Digest, Feb., 1974, p. 164)

(47) I begin to listen more carefully. (J. Baldwin, Sonny's Blues, p. 287)

It is said that "begin + gerund" shows "continuing process" [Wood(1956, 13)], or "process in which one is engaged" [Close (1962, Sec. 277)], and that "begin + infinitive" does "fresh

act in the course of event" [Close(1962, Sec. 277)], or "that an action is sometimes interrupted or not finished" [Jespersen (1940, Sec. 13. 21)]. Therefore the difference may be that of aspect which is originally observed between the simple form and the progressive form.

(48) Martinez laughed and laughed, subsided into weak giggles, and then began laughing again. (N. Mailer, The Naked and the Dead, p. 28)

(49) Relieved, he begins to laugh, turns on music, starts to dance again. (A Gottlieb, Stud, p. 384)

In the example (48), the gerund construction may be preferred in order to be made to fit in with the context of multiple activities or continuation shown by "laughed and laughed". In (49), an infinitive is preferred, as the following verbs "turns on" and "starts" show momentaneous aspect.

(50a) He broke out a portable record player and began playing wartime songs. (Time, April 15, 1974, p. 11)

(50b) Several moments later music began playing in another part of the house. (C. Webb, The Graduate, p. 17)

(50c) Julie smiled and we began to play. . . I begin to win and I liked it ... I continued to win. (P. Roth, Goodbye, Columbus, p. 44)

(50d) Professionals were admitted to Wimbledon and Forest Hills, and tennis stars began to play for money instead of trophies and glory. (Reader's Digest, July, 1974, p. 125)

(51a) A great screaming began from the other end of the block and the boy's mother, . . . stumbling like a drunken woman, began running toward the silent people. (J. Baldwin, Another Country, p. 17)

(51b) But then, as if seized by his fate, he began to run. (B. Malamud, The Assistant, p. 33)

The contrast of aspect may be observed between "began playing" of (50a) (50b) and "began to play" of (50c) (50d), and also between "began running" of (51a) and "began to run" of (51b).

Although in the contexts of (50a) and (50b) both a gerund and an infinitive are possible, even so the aspectual difference could be observed.

This is also obvious after verbs of starting and continuing:

(52a) Then he fell back into the sea and picked up the scent and started swimming on the course the skiff and the fish had taken. (E. Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea, p. 89)

(52b) And then he had turned himself around in the water, and started to swim with the current. (A. Miller, I Don't Need You Any More, p. 23)

(53a) The moment the film began, people started leaving. (T. Southern, The Magic Christian, p. 43)

(53b) As Hill started to leave the tavern, the man jumped him at the doorway and cut and stabbed him with the knife. (Journal Star, April 2, 1974, p. A-5)

(54a) Elaine pulled her hand away from Benjamin but continued staring through the empty doorway. (C. Webb The Graduate, p. 113)

(54b) It observed them intently, first Titus and then Didymus, at whom it continued to stare. (J. F. Powers, Lions, Harts, Leaping Does, p. 36)

In the examples of "continue" in (54a) and (54b), the gerund in (54a) shows continuity more clearly than an infinitive.

Other verbs, like "start out" "commence" and "cease", followed by both constructions show an aspectual difference.

(55a) So he starts out walking all over Russia, looking for somebody who can tell him how to pray incessantly. (J. D. Salinger, Franny and Zooey, p. 31)

(55b) "What I started out to say before about my life," he said heavily, "is that I have had a funny one, ... " (B. Malamud, The Assistant, p. 35)

(56) The moment Miss Louisa Dorset's back was turned Tom Bascomb slipped his arm gently about Emily's little waist and commenced kissing her all over her pretty

face. (I. Taylor, Venus, Cupid, Folly and Time, p. 338)

(57a) He asked Novotny if, when it did hurt, they ceased being intimate. (P. Roth, Novotny's Pain, p. 449)

(57b) They cease to swim, creeping instead on two front antennae as they search for a permanent home; . . . . (Reader's Digest, April, 1974, p. 63)

So far, illustrative sentences have shown the following points:

(a) Verbs avoided in the progressive form are hardly used as gerunds, although they are found abundantly as infinitives.

(b) The quality of verbs used as gerunds may meet with that of the verbs used as progressive forms.

(c) Gerunds are often used with adverbials of duration or frequency, especially in contexts of continuation and process.

From these points it will be understood that one of the differences of gerund and infinitive is that of aspect, especially of progressive aspect. Therefore one of the factors that govern the choice of the infinitive and the gerund is "aspect".

So it is not appropriate that "verb + infinitive" and "verb + gerund" are used without any difference. The two constructions are not freely interchangeable. It is more appropriate to say, as Wood states, that in each case only one of them is the acceptable sentence.

5. The progressive aspect is also observed in the gerunds used after "like", "love" and "hate". The infinitive-construction after these verbs shows a "fresh act":

(58) But I-I just--rs Robinson, I like being with you. (C. Webb, The Graduate, p. 59)

(59) I have never asked him whether he likes being here--it is so patent that he does, very much. (P. Bowles, Pages from Cold Point, p. 100)

(60) I like to walk in the woods and see what Mother Nature is wearing. (F. O'Connor, Good Country People,

p. 228)

(61) I love to run with dogs through hilly woods, run, run, leap over obstructions- (T. Williams, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, p. 121)

(62) I really hate to bother you at this odd hour. (J. Updike, The Same Door, p. 9)

(63) But the more I thought about it . . . I hate to use this word . . . well, the happier I got. (T. McNally, Bringing It All Back Home, p. 100)

(64) Listen, I would advise you to return to your--your --how I hate to use that word--! (J. Ensana, Please, No Flowers, p. 340)

Accordingly, the verbs, "know" and "see", as these are generally avoided in the progressive form, are used only as infinitives:

(65) I like to know what that stuck up has got beside a college education? (B. Malamud, The Assistant, p. 44)

(66) We don't like to see elephant on the street. (I. Horovitz, The Indian Wants the Bronx, p. 33)

Sweet(1898, Sec. 2327), Close(1962, Sec. 297) and Bladon (1968, 213) admit that gerund used after "like", "love" and "hate" show "duration, habit, frequency", which are also characteristic of the progressive form.

(67a) She liked to have breakfast in bed.

(67b) She liked having breakfast in bed.

Concerning the above example (67a), Bladon states that "the subject expresses his enjoyment of something rarely occuring, typically all too rarely, and sometimes tinged with nostalgia", and, as to (67b), that "the enjoyment is frequent or at least regular", and suggests the difference is that of aspect.

Since the gerund after verbs of liking, loving and hating are felt almost like a noun owing to the lexical meaning of these verbs, the progressive aspect, which is explicitly felt after verbs of beginning, starting and continuing, will become less obvious, and sometimes passes into showing habit instead of duration:[8]

(68) Brick never liked bein' kissed or made a fuss over, I guess because he's always had too much of it! (T. Williams, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, p. 140)

(69) Usually I like riding on trains, especially at night, with the lights on and . . . . (J. D. Salinger, The Catcher in the Rye, p. 57)

(70) She was a prime product of the country, a Pennsylvania-Dutch woman with sons, who loved feeding her sons and . . . . (J. Updike, The Same Door, p. 174)

(71) He hated being called Fred, especially in print, but then the sports writers were all office boys anyway, Behn used to say. (J. Updike, The Same Door, p. 21)

(72) "But if it's any trouble, I can walk. I like walking around Rome. (I. Shaw, Two Weeks in Another Town, p. 19)

Although Hornby(1954, Sec. 28b), Wood(1956, 13) and Zandvoort (1972, Sec. 70) say that a gerund expresses "general statement", and an infinitive "special occasion" or "something more specific", the general character of the gerund may be observed only when the progressive aspect is less obvious as stated above. So the examples(58) (59) express not the "general statement" but "continuation".

(73) { I like singing.
     { I like to sing.

Poutsma(1929, Ch. XIA/20, s.v. like) says about the example (73) that "the subject of the action being indefinite when the gerund is used, and identical with that of to like when the infinitive is used", but this proposed rule cannot be applied to the examples (58) and (59). The sense-subject of the gerund in the examples (58) and (59) is not general person but the subject of the sentence. Though definition by sense-subject may sometimes determine the quality of the infinitive and the gerund, this is not truely effective in the case of the gerund used after "begin", "start" or "continue" where the progressive aspect is obvious. In the "S+V+Gerund" construction, the

sense-subject of the gerund may not be always generic person, but sometimes the subject of the whole sentence. If the sense-subject of the gerund is generic person (or when the generic person is implied in the gerund), the gerund after verbs of liking, loving and hating will have the character of a general statement in a more apparent way. Therefore it may be said that the progressive aspect which is observed basically in the gerund is influenced to a large extent by the lexical meaning of the preceding verb.[9]

FOOTNOTES

1. On this problem there are some interesting papers by Bladon(1968) and Wood(1956), of which the main scope is the syntactical analysis of the construction. On the other hand I consider it necessary to observe the language as it is actually used. Sometimes the unconscious use of the construction as in example (19) shows clearly the difference.

2. Bladon(1968, 204) says that "dislike" is never followed by an infinitive, but I have the following example:

> The effect he has on me dates from an early period of our lives, from days I dislike to recall. (P. Bowles, Pages from Cold Point, p. 98)

3. Contrary to example (6), a successive use of infinitives is found in the following sentence, which fact may be because the gerund are not generally used after "refuse". Indeed not a single example is found as shown in the above table. (cf. B. Evans and C. Evans(1957), A Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage, New York, Random-House. s.v. refuse)

> he refused to give Ned the public chance to refuse to wash the automobile before Boon might have had a public chance to refuse to let him do it. (W. Faulkner, The Reivers, p. 37)

4. Stative verbs such as "contain", "belong", "matter", "deserve", "consist", "please", "depend" and "own" are not used

as progressive forms, as these express the continuation by themselves. Also verbs of mental activities, such as "think", "imagine", "hope", "plan", "forget", and "believe", and verbs of sensations like "see", "smell", "hear", "taste", and "feel", that is, private verbs as Palmer(1965, Sec. 5, 3) defines, cannot be used as progressive forms, for these verbs are used with the first person subject and inform what the speaker himself can perceive. Therefore the progressive form as "I am smelling something burning" is unusual.

5. Sometimes verbs avoided as progressive form may be used, especially in intensive use, and this tendency is growing strong in present-day colloquial English:

cf. (a) I was hoping to make some sandwiches as well.
(D. Storey, "The Restoration of Arnold Middleton," New English Dramatists 14, Penguin, 1970, p. 60)
(b) 'What's Martin hating now?' she said, facing him.
(V. Woolf, The Years, 1968, Penguin, p. 335)

6. Poutsma(1929, Ch. XIX/20, s.v. begin) says about the use of infinitive and gerund after "begin" that "when the subject is the name of an inanimate thing, . . . it appears to be rare", and the sentence, "Her heart began palpitating", is hardly used. But this is not true as will be clear from the following examples:

(a) While he placed an endotracheal tube down Lindblom's throat, through which oxygen began pumping into his lungs, . . . (Reader's Digest, Feb., 1974, p. 98)
(b) . . . and once more the unconvincing images started passing across the screen, pretending at tragedy.
(I. Shaw, Two Weeks in Another Town, p. 55)

Even when the subject is inanimate, the gerund is possible as well as a progressive form if the hearer can perceive what the sentence denotes.

7. Progressive forms often express a durative aspect clearly when used with adverbials of duration or frequency:

(a) This is happening every five minutes of the day.
(J. Osborne, Look Back in Anger, Faber, 1956, p. 36)
(b) We're sticking here for half an hour at the most.

(W. Hall, The Long and the Short and the Tall, "Three Plays", Penguin, 1958, p. 11)

(c) . . . without seeing grandparents who are continually shouting at each other. (A. Wesker, Chicken Soup with Barley, "The Wesker Trilogy", Penguin, 1960, p. 41)

8. "There are a large number of verbs of liking and disliking with which the infinitive or -ing form occurs and has a function very similar to that of a noun as the object of a verb. . . ." --Palmer(1965, Sec. 9. 2. 4.)

9. Although the reason why the infinitive shows the future may partly be the effect of proposition "to" which originally indicated direction, this is not the innate character of the infinitive. That is to say, this use is due to the character of the main verbs themselves which have the future meanings, as "hope" and "wish" as in "I hope to meet her" and "I wish to go".

*This is a revised version of the paper originally read before the Summer Institute of Linguistics which was held in Tokyo on September 1, 1974.

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